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Combined Districts of
BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
FROME (Urban and Rural)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1954

R. H. G. H. DENHAM, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
8 Cleveland Place East,
Bath.
Telephone : Bath 5391

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
8 CLEVELAND PLACE EAST,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome
District Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The almost continuously bad weather experienced through the year might have been expected to have had a detrimental effect on the health record of the area. From the infectious diseases viewpoint this has not proved to be the case as the incidence of these was even less than that of last year. The numbers of the majority of the infections were reduced and in no case did they reach epidemic proportions. With the exception of tuberculosis the mortality among the notifiable diseases was nil. Poliomyelitis was less in evidence than for several years and the few cases which did occur recovered with little residual paralysis. Three separate cases of food-poisoning were notified, all fortunately mild in character. Every effort was taken during the year to keep alive the clean food campaign and so reduce to a minimum infections of the type which are in most cases completely preventable.

There was an increase in the birth rate for the first time since 1950. The death and infantile mortality rates showed a less welcome increase, the latter by the quite appreciable figure of 6.07. It is to be hoped that next year's rate will more than compensate for this. Notwithstanding the increased mortality figures all three rates still bear favourable comparison with those of England and Wales.

I wish to express again my gratitude to many council and council staff members for their much valued support and assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. G. H. DENHAM.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Of the 38 cases of scarlet fever notified, 3 were admitted to hospital, the numbers for the previous year being 30 and 4 respectively. The disease continues its very mild form and only occasionally does one see any of the clinical symptoms that used to be characteristic.

MEASLES

Ten cases only were notified during the year compared with 1,110 last year.

WHOOPING COUGH

There was a fall in the number of cases of whooping cough from 173 to 137. This represents a reduction in the notifications for three years in succession. One would like to believe that this satisfactory trend was due to the increasing number of children who are being immunised against the disease by their private doctors but it is too early yet to do more than hope very sincerely that it may be so.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-five cases of pneumonia were notified. Only one was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths. This compares with 33 cases notified last year of which seven were admitted to hospital and there was one death.

DIPHTHERIA

Diphtheria was again absent from the area. Protective inoculation against the disease was continued actively during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Only one case of erysipelas was notified compared with 13 cases last year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The numbers of tuberculosis notifications were again much the same as those for the previous year. Fifty-eight as compared with 55 in 1953 and 56 in 1952. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the pulmonary cases showed a decrease, 47 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary compared with 49 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary in 1953 and 51 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary in 1952.

The Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to Frome during the period 24th May to 31st May, and surveys were carried out at Messrs. Butler & Tanner, Ltd., and at the Frome Health Centre, Cork St. The attendances were as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Messrs. Butler & Tanner	199	90	289
Frome Health Centre	840	536	1,376

The results obtained were very satisfactory. Among those attending at Messrs. Butler and Tanner no tuberculosis either active or inactive was found.

Of those attending the Frome Health Centre the cases of active tuberculosis were also nil. Eleven, however, showed evidence of former infection which was inactive and of these five were referred for observation. The attendance figures showed an increase of 378 over the 1952 figures when the Unit previously visited Frome.

POLIOMYELITIS

There was a considerable reduction in the incidence of poliomyelitis during the year, only 4 cases being notified compared with 11 for the previous year. Considerable success in the prevention of this disease has been reported from America following their extensive tests of the Salk vaccine among hundreds of thousands of school children. It is to be hoped that equal success will be experienced in this country and that this or a similar vaccine will be the means of controlling or even possibly of eradicating the disease from the community. There is little doubt that at the present time poliomyelitis causes more apprehension and fear in the minds of parents than any other disease affecting their children and protective inoculation will be justified if only for the psychological benefit which is almost sure to follow.

MENINGITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS

Three cases of meningitis were notified compared with one case last year. All were children under 6 years of age.

FOOD-POISONING

Three notifications of food-poisoning were received, all isolated cases. Two were of a very mild nature and recovery was almost complete before any steps could be taken to ascertain the cause of the illness. The third was a young school boy of 6 years of age in whose case salmonella infection due to typhi-murium was found after admission to hospital. Careful investigation was carried out in this case to trace the source of infection but without success.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

Many visits were made in response to requests for action under this section of the National Assistance Act, 1948. In no case was compulsory removal found to be necessary.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The figures in this Table represent the birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the

six years period, 1949 to 1954 with the comparative figures for England and Wales.

					Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
Combined districts	1949	....	....		16.41	11.48	19.49
England and Wales	1949	....	....		16.7	11.7	32.0
Combined districts	1950	....	....		17.94	10.61	21.99
England and Wales	1950	....	....		15.8	11.6	29.8
Combined districts	1951	....	....		16.55	11.29	13.66
England and Wales	1951	....	....		15.5	12.5	29.6
Combined districts	1952	....	....		16.05	9.52	20.74
England and Wales	1952	....	....		15.3	11.3	27.6
Combined districts	1953	....	....		15.91	10.05	18.84
England and Wales	1953	....	....		15.5	11.4	26.8
Combined districts	1954	....	....		17.39	10.91	24.91
England and Wales	1954	....	....		15.2	11.3	25.5

After a gradual fall for the past three years from 17.94 in 1950 to 15.91 in 1953, the birth rate rose to 17.39, an increase of 1.48 over last year's figure. The death rate increased from 10.05 to 10.91 and the infantile mortality rate also showed an unwelcome rise of 6.07 to 24.91. Both are slightly under the average for the rest of the country.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE ALL AREAS

Cause		Under week	1—4 weeks	1—6 months	6—12 months	Total
Congenital defect	...	2	—	2	1	5
Atelectasis	...	3	1	—	—	4
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	4	—	—	—	4
Prematurity	...	3	1	—	—	4
Gastro enteritis	...	—	—	—	1	1
Meningitis	...	—	1	—	—	1
Disease of pancreas	...	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	2	—	—	—	2
Birth injury	...	1	—	—	—	1
Pyelonephritis	...	—	1	—	—	1
Galactosaemia	...	—	—	1	—	1
		15	4	3	3	25

BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED, MID-JUNE, 1954	....	....	19,350
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	39,996 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, APRIL 1ST, 1954	....	....	5,754
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	3.36
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£428
RATEABLE VALUE, APRIL, 1954	....	....	£106,707

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	R. S. TIBBOTTS, Esq., J.P.
<i>Chairman of the Health and Highway Committee</i>	....	H. J. COTTON, Esq.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	....	C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>		H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
<i>Health Department Clerk</i>	....	MISS TENNANT

Council Offices :

30-32 Westgate Buildings, Bath

Telephone : BATH 5391/5

Health Department :

8 Cleveland Place East, Bath

Telephone : BATH 5391/5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 304.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	163	130	293
Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	7	11
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				167	137	304
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	5	4	9
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				5	4	9
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1954	....	....	....	....	....	16·50
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					30·19
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					9·40
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....			27·95
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....					29·01
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births						Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 214, 110 males and 104 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1	6
" " lung, bronchus	7	—	7
" " breast	—	3	3
" " uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	8	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	11	23
Coronary disease, angina	18	8	26
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	13	37	50
Other circulatory disease	1	6	7
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	8	21
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	110	104	214

Deaths under one year of age

There were 10 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 7 male and 3 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	5	1—4 weeks	....	2
1—6 months	....	1	6—12 months	....	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	6	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	8	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	61	1	—
Acute primary pneumonia	8	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	1	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	3	1	—
	89	5	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Eighteen cases of pulmonary and 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on Register, 1.1.54	45	31	4	6	49	37
New cases, 1954	12	6	1	4	13	10
	57	37	5	10	62	47
Cases removed	6	4	1	1	7	5
On Register, 31.12.54	51	33	4	9	55	42

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Bathampton

As mentioned in last year's report the sufficiency of the supply did not permit development in the village but at the time of writing this has been met in part by the extension into a portion of the village of the City of Bath mains. Negotiations are now in progress for the transfer of the whole of the undertaking in the village to the Bath Corporation. An uninterrupted supply was given throughout the year and the quality of the water generally was satisfactory.

Bathford

An uninterrupted supply was maintained during the year but in order to do this it was necessary to receive a supplementary supply from the R.E. works in Wiltshire. The quality of the water was satisfactory. As at Bathampton negotiations are proceeding for the inclusion of this parish into the Bath City undertaking.

Combe Hay

This supply serving the parishes of Wellow, Dunkerton, Camerton, Combe Hay and Priston was satisfactory in all respects,

Continued housing development is straining the sources of the supply and causes some anxiety as to its future sufficiency. The quality and quantity otherwise remained quite satisfactory.

Monkton Combe

That portion of the village supplied by the Council has been generally satisfactory although at times the pressure to high level properties was unsatisfactory.

Upper Swainswick

It was not necessary during the year to carry out supplementary pumping but the supply was very inadequate and this hamlet is included in the scheme for supply by Bath Corporation. Negotiations in connection therewith are proceeding.

Northstoke & Swinford

Little use has been made so far of the new main laid by the West Gloucester Water Company owing to the fact that the old main of the Council has continued to give a sufficient supply. Arrangements are now being made to close down the Council supply.

Hinton Charterhouse

The de-rocking of mains by the Combe Down Water Company has enabled a sufficient bulk supply to be obtained for that part of the village which the Council supply and no difficulties are now experienced with regard to quantity, pressure or purity.

Marksbury

The Clutton Rural District Council are not yet in a position to increase the limited bulk supply to the village but it is anticipated that this increased supply will be available during the coming year. The supply is at all times pure.

SUPPLIES FROM STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

The statutory undertakers operating within the district are the West Gloucester Water Company, the Combe Down Water Company and the Bath Corporation. The quantity and quality of the waters have been sufficient and pure at all times.

PRIVATE & OTHER SUPPLIES

Claverton Village

This estate supply has given no serious concern but it is considered that the time is approaching when public mains should be extended to the village as the source of supply is potentially unreliable.

Kelston

No trouble has been experienced with this estate supply.

Burnett

This supply continues to be unsatisfactory and it is regretted that the mains of the West Gloucester Water Company have not yet been made available. It is hoped that the proposals of the West Gloucester Water Company will shortly be approved by the Minister so that an adequate and pure supply may be made available.

Compton Dando

This is the most unsatisfactory supply in the district and although both this Council and the Parish Council have been pressing for the mains of the West Gloucester Water Company to be extended to the village this has not yet been achieved. An urgently required housing scheme cannot be commenced until a sufficient supply is available.

Results of Samples Taken

<i>Raw Water</i>				<i>Chlorinated Water</i>			
<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
15	7	—	—	58	1	7	—

Supplies from Public Mains

<i>Direct to Houses</i>		<i>By means of standpipes</i>	
<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>Pop.</i>
5,677	18,600	284	934

Number of parishes with piped supplies :—

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| (a) From public mains | 20 |
| (b) From private source | 4 |
| (c) Without a piped supply | Nil |

All water supplies are hard and no difficulties are experienced with regard to plumbo solvent action.

NEW AND EXTENDED SUPPLIES

Mains have been extended by the West Gloucester Water Company to serve the Hursley Hill area in the Whitchurch parish which area previously depended upon shallow and unsatisfactory wells. A main has been extended by Bath Corporation to serve the Steway Lane area of Batheaston which area depended upon surface springs.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A scheme for dealing with the unsatisfactory sewage disposal for parts of the parish of Southstoke was approved by the Minister during the year and at the time of writing the work of laying 2,286 yards of sewer together with a complete sewage disposal plant at Midford has commenced.

The Minister has approved a scheme for sewers and sewage disposal in the parish of Priston and it is hoped to commence this work during the coming year.

The extensions of sewers in the parishes of Batheaston and Bathford were completed during the year.

With the exception of minor obstructions all sewers have functioned satisfactorily during the year. All sewage disposal works have been well maintained and worked satisfactorily with the exception of the one at Wellow village. These works should be replaced as soon as practicable.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council continued to operate a fortnightly collection of house refuse throughout the major part of its district. The refuse is disposed of on five partially controlled sites. As these tips become filled difficulty is experienced in finding alternative suitable sites. Refuse is collected by direct labour, the Council employing fifteen men and five refuse collection vehicles for the purpose. As lorries are replaced the opportunity has been taken to change from petrol engined to diesel engined vehicles. Although somewhat more expensive to buy in the first instance the running and maintenance costs have been greatly reduced and the extra purchase money paid has been more than saved in the first year of operation. In view of the number of new houses brought into occupation an additional vehicle will be brought into use during the coming year which will enable the present collections to be maintained and, in addition, more frequent collections to be made in some areas.

HOUSING

	Houses erected during the year	Houses in course of erection	Conversion to flats or dwellings
By Local Authority	121	135	Nil
By Private Enterprise	52	49	3
TOTAL	173	184	3

Total number of dwelling houses in district	....	....	....	6,080
„ „ „ dwelling houses owned by the Local Authority	....	....	....	896
„ „ „ post-war houses erected by the Local Authority	....	....	....	772
„ „ „ post-war houses erected by private enter- prise	....	....	....	276
(a) No. of unfit houses in the district but on which no formal action has been taken	....	....	....	92
(b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit	....	....	....	10
No. of houses occupied under (a)	....	....	....	92
„ „ „ „ „ (b)	....	....	....	Nil

Houses Required

(c) To replace those unfit	....	....	....	92
(d) To abate overcrowding	....	....	....	12
To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g., two families living in same house but not included in (c) or (d)	....	....	....	168
(e) Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	....	....	....	548

Informal Action

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts	23
--	------	------	------	----

Action under Statutory Powers, Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—by owners	....	....	....	Nil
—by Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	....	Nil

Action under Statutory Powers, Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal
action (Sec. 9, 10, 11 and 16) Nil

GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949

<i>Recd.</i>		<i>Approved</i>		<i>Rejected</i>		<i>Under consideration</i>	
<i>Apps.</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Apps.</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Apps.</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Apps.</i>	<i>Houses</i>
5	5	3	3	1	1	1	1

At the time of writing 45 applications are to hand in a tentative form. The properties have been inspected and guidance given. Firm applications are awaited from many of these cases.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

No. of registered distributors ... 24
 „ „ dairy premises within the district ... 18

Since the coming into operation of the Milk (Special Designations Specified Areas) Order, 1952, and the inclusion of our district in a “specified area” whereby all milk retailed must be graded, licences were issued to the above distributors as follows :—

No. of dealers' licences to retail tuberculin tested milk ... 18
 „ „ „ „ „ „ pasteurised milk ... 15
 „ „ „ „ „ „ sterilised milk ... 3
 „ „ supplementary licences to retail tuberculin tested milk 6
 „ „ „ „ „ „ pasteurised milk... 4
 „ „ „ „ „ „ sterilised milk ... 1

Sampling

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin tested ...	43	39	4
Pasteurised ...	43	43	—
Sterilised ...	7	7	—

The majority of the above samples were taken from dairies bottling milk within the district. The milk supplied by retailers

who obtain their milk already bottled by creameries in Bath and Bristol and by those holding supplementary licences is regularly sampled by adjacent authorities. In order to avoid duplication of sampling only occasional check samples are taken from them.

ICE-CREAM

No. of premises registered for :—

(a)	Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	Retail only	...	...	...	...	38

The whole of the ice-cream sold in the district is prepared and produced by well-known wholesale manufacturers who supply modern containers for storage at the retailers. No action was necessary at any of the premises and all the samples taken were placed in Grade I.

MEAT AND FOOD

There are no slaughterhouses or bacon factories in use in the district at the present time. Food inspection is therefore confined to shops, canteens and cafes. There are 26 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Informal action under the bye-laws was taken in respect of 3 premises. The 8 bakehouses have given complete satisfaction. The following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

269 lb. beef	31 tins of milk
25 lb. mutton	28 „ „ fruit
4 tins of meat products	19 „ „ fish

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following inspections were made by the rodent operator :—

No. of premises inspected as a result of notification by occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
No. of premises inspected as a result of survey under the Act...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,092
No. of treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	222

The usual bi-annual treatments of the public sewers were undertaken but infestation was found to be very slight. The five refuse disposal tips received attention every two months with the result that rats have been kept to a minimum.

INDUSTRIES

The main industries of the district are :—

Coalmining	Lime Kilns
Plasticine and Wax Making	Fullers Earth
Joinery Works	Rubber Industry
Paper Making	Agriculture
Rag Flock manufacture	

Inspections for purposes of provisions of health :—

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Notices served</i>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced	30	33	Nil
2. Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced	10	21	4
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced	1	—	—

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any of the 44 outworkers' premises.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are 5 sites in the Bath environs licensed as camping sites and on which there are 55 caravans. In addition there are 45 individually sited around the district, 21 of which are at Whitchurch adjacent to the Bristol boundary.

The Planning Authority and this Council's Planning Committee have given considerable thought to the question of caravans and at the time of writing it is hoped that an additional site will be licensed so that further siting of individual caravans can be restricted and many of the isolated cases moved to the new site. No major difficulties have arisen during the year but from time to time the question of provision of sufficient refuse bins and the erection of ancillary structures needs attention.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of water closets is	5,800 (approx.)
„ „ „ pail „ „	1,290
„ „ „ earth „ „	75
„ „ „ chemical „ „	66
Number of conversions to water carriage system	34

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Visits following cases of infectious disease	....	....	....	69
Disinfections carried out	....	....	....	24
Disinfestations carried out	....	....	....	19

GENERAL

There is one manufacturer of rag flock licensed under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Twenty-eight samples were each above the required standard of purity.

The mills are now making coir fibre filling material, 20 samples taken of this preparation show it to be of an excellent standard.

Five dealers in old metal are registered under Sec. 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

There is one licensed knacker's yard which has given every satisfaction during the year.

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses in the district.

KEYNSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1954	....	....	9,070
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	4,170 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,206
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		2.83
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£275
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	£72,850

Chairman of the Council.... MRS. H. HICKLING, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee A. R. BEAUCHAM, ESQ.

Sanitary Inspector D. F. G. LOCKYEAR,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices : Keynsham.

Telephone : KEYNSHAM 2345 /8.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 144.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	71	70	141
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	—	3
				<hr/> 74	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 144
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
				<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
				<hr/> —	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1954	....	....	....	....	....	16.52
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					14.25
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					14.10

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	30.21
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			30.85
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 147, 73 males and 74 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2
" " lung, bronchus	4	1	5
" " breast	—	5	5
" " uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	5	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	15	26
Coronary disease, angina	14	18	32
Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
Other heart disease	6	11	17
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	4	12
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	4	3	7
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	73	74	147

Deaths under One year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 2 male and 3 female, divided as follows:—

Under 1 week	.... 4	1—4 weeks	.... 1
1—6 months	.... —	6—12 months —

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	1	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	22	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	26	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Fifteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. No case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
On register, 1.1.54	20	17	—	2	20	19
New cases, 1954	8	7	—	—	8	7
	28	24	—	2	28	26
Removed from register	2	1	—	—	2	1
On register, 31.12.54	26	23	—	2	26	25

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM DAY NURSERY

A satisfactory year's working was reported from the Keynsham Day Nursery at Hazelwood. A mild form of chicken-pox was experienced towards the end of the year. There were 25 children on the register, 4 under 2 years of age, and 21, 2 to 5 years of age. The average daily attendance of children during the year was 20.

KEYNSHAM WELFARE CENTRE

The attendances for the year showed an increase on those of the previous year but were still far short of the 1952 figures. The weather was probably more responsible for this than any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the mothers. The figures were as follows :—

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total on books at the beginning of the year	494	152	646
Total on books at the end of the year	500	162	662

Attendances :—

January	....	....	....	107	6	113
February	....	....	....	132	5	137
March	....	....	....	173	8	181
April	....	....	....	114	7	121
May	....	....	....	128	9	137
June	....	....	....	156	16	172
July	....	....	....	107	11	118
August	....	....	....		(closed)	
September	....	....	....	162	18	180
October	....	....	....	131	26	157
November	....	....	....	105	26	131
December	....	....	....	134	21	155
				<u>1449</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>1602</u>
Attendances for 1953 :—				1248	111	1359

SALTFORD WEIGHING CENTRE

Total on the current register at the beginning of the year—32.

Total on the current register at the end of the year—72.

Attendances :—

January	....	....	....	....	32
February	....	....	....	....	28
March	....	....	....	....	31
April	....	....	....	....	33
May 3rd	....	....	....	....	32
„ 31st	....	....	....	....	26
June	....	....	....	....	No session
July 5th	....	....	....	....	26
„ 26th	....	....	....	....	24
August	....	....	....	....	No session
September 6th	....	....	....	....	35
October 4th	....	....	....	....	34
November 1st	....	....	....	....	35
December 6th	....	....	....	....	27
					<u>363</u>

Attendances for 1953—361.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1954

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and trade refuse has been collected weekly from the whole of the district. The continued growth of the district and shortage of men have caused difficulties from time to time and additional transport has been employed to maintain the service.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at the Unity Road site which is proceeding quite satisfactorily.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

More than 95 per cent. of the properties in the district are connected to sewers to which no major repairs have been required. Extensions of sewers have been made to serve Council and private housing estates.

The disposal works, although rather overloaded at certain periods of the year, have dealt with the flow satisfactorily and the effluent has been maintained at a reasonable standard.

The scheme for the overhaul of the sewerage system and extension of the disposal works is virtually complete and will be submitted early in 1955.

HOUSING

A total of 337 new houses, Council and private, were completed during the year, which is almost twice the number for 1953, and the rate of construction continues at a high level.

The survey of existing houses has been commenced to ascertain the number of unsatisfactory houses which will have to be dealt with under the Housing Acts. It is hoped to complete the review early in the year, but investigations so far made indicate that the number of houses which may have to be demolished may not be as great as was expected.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses in district	....	....	2956
(2)	Total number of dwelling houses owned by Council	....		751
(3)	New houses completed during the year :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	173
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	164
(4)	New houses under construction at 31st December, 1954 :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	173
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	172
(5)	Total number of applicants for Council Houses as at 31st December, 1954	....	....	228

(6)	Total number of post-war houses completed to 31st December, 1954 :—				
(a)	By Local Authority	....	....	....	643
(b)	By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	352
(7)	Summary of action under Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(a)	Houses inspected....	....	....	....	156
(b)	Total number of visits	....	....	....	224
(c)	Informal notices issued	....	....	....	45
(d)	Informal notices complied with	....	....	....	38
(e)	Statutory notices issued	....	....	....	1
(f)	Statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	1

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections	....	....	....	....	174
Informal notices issued	....	....	....	....	14
Informal notices complied with	....	....	....	....	12
Infectious disease {	Enquiries	....	....	....	10
	Disinfections	....	....	....	6
Enquiries into insect infestation	....	....	....	....	3
Enquiries into various complaints of nuisance	....	....	....	....	20
Shops inspections	....	....	....	....	15
Statutory notices issued	....	....	....	....	1
Statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	....	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

By virtue of the operation of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, all milk retailed in the area is designated milk, and the dairy premises within the district have been satisfactorily maintained.

Thirty-three samples of milk have been submitted for bacteriological examination of which two T.T. samples failed to conform to the prescribed standard.

(1)	Number of registered dairy premises	....	....	....	5
(2)	Number of registered distributors	....	....	....	7
(3)	Number of producer /retailers in (2)	....	....	....	Nil
(4)	Number of licensed pasteurising plants....	....	....	....	Nil
(5)	Number of dealers' licences to retail pasteurised milk	....	....	....	1
(6)	Number of dealers' licences to retail T.T. milk	....	....	....	3
(7)	Number of supplementary licences to retail pasteurised milk	....	....	....	3
(8)	Number of supplementary licences to retail T.T. milk	....	....	....	3
(9)	Number of supplementary licences to retail sterilised milk	....	....	....	2
(10)	Number of inspections at dairies, etc.	....	....	....	15

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses 5

These have been periodically inspected and found in satisfactory condition.

Food Manufacturing Premises

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of food under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 10

Except for the manufacture of pickles these premises are little used and no formal action in connection therewith has been necessary.

Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or knackers' yards. Inspection at butchers' and other food premises 42

Food surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Home-killed beef	...	...	...	...	...	17	lb.
Imported beef	...	...	...	...	...	7½	„
Imported lamb	...	...	...	...	...	14	„
Home-killed pork	...	...	...	...	...	7	„
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	8	„
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	116	„
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	14	„
Tinned meat...	...	...	...	...	...	19	tins
Tinned fruit and vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	29	„
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	48	„
Dried fruit	...	...	...	...	...	60	lb.
Macaroni	...	...	...	...	...	96	„

Ice-Cream

Almost without exception ice-cream sold retail is manufactured and packed by the large wholesale firms and samples taken during the year indicate that a good standard has been maintained.

No. of premises registered for :—

(a) Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Manufacture and sale	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Retail only	...	...	...	...	...	32

During the year 17 samples of ice-cream were taken. Results of the tests on the ice-cream were as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	15	samples
Grade II	...	...	...	2	„
Grade III	...	...	...	Nil	„
Grade IV	...	...	...	Nil	„

WATER SUPPLY

Rainfall

Month	Somerdale Station (<i>Total depth in inches</i>)	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date
January	1.97	0.46	25th
February	3.30	0.54	16th
March	3.47	0.79	6th
April	0.36	0.13	3rd
May	2.04	0.50	1st
June	3.44	0.77	6th
July	2.66	0.80	25th
August	3.07	0.60	5th
September	4.67	0.81	19th
October	2.83	0.57	23rd
November	6.65	0.86	25th
December	2.34	0.65	8th
TOTAL	36.80	—	—

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Co. and practically all domestic supplies are obtained from this source. The quality and quantity of this supply have been satisfactory.

As the source of the public water supply is not within your district no samples of raw water have been collected by your officers. Samples of treated water have been taken quarterly for bacteriological examination and all have been found satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the water have also been made periodically. The results indicate that the water is hard (230 parts per million), largely temporary, and slightly alkaline.

The water, being hard, has no plumbo-solvent action.

Practically all houses in the district have a piped supply direct from the main. There are no standpipes.

RODENT CONTROL

General

Total number of visits of inspection	...	...	1298
Number of properties found infested	...	...	35
Number of properties treated by operator	...	...	24

No major infestation of rats has been noted and while there is never room for complacency in this work the position generally in the district is considered satisfactory.

Council Properties

These have been kept under supervision and in only one instance was treatment necessary at the refuse disposal site.

Sewers

The annual test baiting of sewers revealed some infestation in three sections which were subsequently treated.

CARAVAN SITES

Six sites have been licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The majority of this accommodation is permanently occupied. All sites have been periodically visited and the owners attention drawn to deficiencies or infringements of licence conditions were noted. No recourse to formal action has been necessary.

FACTORIES AND INDUSTRY

There were 56 premises on the Register of Factories at 31st. December, 1954. 76 visits were made to these and other premises coming within the scope of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Two informal notices were issued and complied with.

There were two persons on the list of outworkers engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

FROME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1954	....	....	11,410
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	1,194 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,407
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE		....	3.35
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£282
RATEABLE VALUE as at MARCH, 1954	....	....	£71,535

Chairman of the Council H. M. SCOTT, Esq., J.P.

*Chairman of the Public Health
Committee* A. D. FRAMPTON, Esq., J.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector E. HOSKEN, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat and Food Inspector,
M. R. I. P. H. H., M. S. I. A.,
Hon. Dip. in Advanced Hygiene

Additional Sanitary Inspector C. M. HOLSGROVE, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food
Inspector

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: FROME 2348

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 167.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	84	78	162
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	2	5
				<hr/> 87	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 167

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				—	1	1
				—	—	—

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1954	....	....	....	....	....	15·81
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					6·43
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					10·52
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....			28·38
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....					29·26
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births						Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 152, 71 males and 81 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach....	3	3	6
" " lung, bronchus	7	1	8
" " breast	—	5	5
" " uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	8	19
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	17	27
Coronary disease, angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	11	15	26
Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	4	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	1	1
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	71	81	152

Deaths under One year of age

There were 7 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 3 male and 4 female, divided as follows:—

Under 1 week	....	4	1—4 weeks	....	1
1—6 months	....	1	6—12 months	....	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	2	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	13	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	21	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	38	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Eight cases of pulmonary and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
On register, 1.1.54	33	13	1	1	34	14
New cases	4	4	1	1	5	5
Removed from register, 1954	37	17	2	2	39	19
	5	4	—	1	5	5
On register, 31.12.54	32	13	2	1	34	14

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FROME WELFARE CENTRE

The district nurses are to be congratulated on having acquired their own cine projector for use at the Welfare Centre. They have made full use of this in the showing of many films produced specifically for the purpose of assisting them in the educational aspect of their work among the mothers and their babies. The attendances were less than the previous year but the reduction occurred in the first quarter only, the figures for the last three months being well ahead of those for the same period in 1953.

Total on the Register at the beginning of the year 427

Total on the Register at the end of the year ... 447

Attendance figures :—

January	213
February	191
March	245
April	255
May	240
June	266
July	308
August	264
September	230
October	325
November	224
December	233
	<u>2,994</u>

Attendance figures for 1953 ... 3,133

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the Council's List is now 284, a decrease of 74 as compared with 1953. This decrease is undoubtedly due to the lessening demand for housing accommodation and the fact that the most urgent cases have been met by the provision of new houses. 64 houses have been completed by the Council during the year and 42 houses by private enterprise.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

A survey of premises under this Act has been commenced and each house in the District is being inspected in order to assess the total number of unfit houses as required by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It is expected this survey will be completed by March, 1955, when a complete picture of the number of unfit houses in the District will have been obtained.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

During the year the following number of visits was made and notices served :—

Number of visits :

Public Health Inspections including Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	...	2,616
Housing	...	...	...	1,389

Notices served and complied with :

Informal Notices served	...	...	71
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	49
Statutory Notices served	...	...	8
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	8

Total number of visits of all kinds ... 4,005

The following table shows sanitary improvements made during the year 1954 :—

Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Staircases and treads repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. pans and flushing fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	11
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired or renewed...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Downpipes and eaves gutters cleaned, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10

Common Lodging Houses

The two Common Lodging Houses were visited on six occasions. They are both kept in a satisfactory and clean condition and serve a useful purpose.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated for rats	....	....	42
" " " " " mice	....	....	28
Total number of visits made	....	....	437

MILK SUPPLY INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (i) Number of registered distributors of milk ... 4
- (ii) **Milk Regulations, 1954**

The licences in respect of graded milk issued by the Frome Urban District Council and in force on the 31st December, 1954, were as follows :—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation " Pasteurised "	....	....	....	2
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	....	....	....	4
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation " Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested "	....	....	....	1

During the year 20 samples of Designated Milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all conformed to the required standard.

Ice-Cream

Registered premises number 38, but six of these retailers no longer sell ice cream. During the year 34 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath and the results of tests were as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	30 samples
Grade II	...	...	...	4 ,,

MEAT INSPECTION

The Council decided to take over the Slaughterhouse at Merchant's Barton, previously operated by the Ministry of Food, as from the 4th July, 1954, and to operate it as a Public Slaughterhouse. This action has greatly facilitated the change-over from rationing to de-control and has proved of considerable assistance to the local butchers. It has the further advantage of centralising meat inspection and the Slaughterhouse is under the direct supervision of the sanitary inspectors.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ...	760	388	798	4,275	9,458
Number inspected		As killed			
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER- CULOSIS:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	2	2	19	36
Carcases of which some part, or organ, was con- demned ...	220	188	13	395	1,003
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with diseases otherthantuber- culosis ...	29%	48.9%	2%	9%	10.6%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	11	—	—	15
Carcases of which some part, or organ was con- demned ...	43	90	—	—	325
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with tuberculo- sis ...	13.2%	25.1%	—	—	3.7%

OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

1,864 lbs. of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, the main items of which were as follows :—

	lb.
Canned Meat	541
„ Fruit	194
„ Vegetables	112
„ Milk	33
Bacon	70
Cooked Meat	127
Carcase Meat	330
Cheese	35
Cereals	165

Sixty one visits were made to food preparing premises during 1954.

SWIMMING BATHS

A chlorination and filtration plant was installed during the first half of 1954 and commenced operation in July. The installation has proved to be entirely satisfactory as a steady increase in the number of bathers proves.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

There were 75 factories on the Council's Register as at 31st December, 1954. Visits were made to 51 factories and four informal notices were served and complied with.

The number of outworkers contained in the August List was 31, all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel. Action was only found necessary in respect of one outworker's premises.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory over the whole year. This service is under the control of the Council's Surveyor and routine samples were taken by the sanitary inspectors, with the following results :—

Number of samples taken	21
Number of satisfactory samples	21
Number of unsatisfactory samples	Nil

One routine chemical sample was satisfactory.

Approximately 300 houses are supplied from stand pipes in common use by more than one household.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Seventeen batches of bedding were disinfected and three batches destroyed at the request of the owners.

Three premises were disinfested of flies and fleas and nine rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious and other diseases.

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1954	....	....	10,310
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	51,933 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,500
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		2.94
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£162
RATEABLE VALUE AT 1ST APRIL, 1954	....	....	£41,255

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	C. CULLEN, Esq. J.P.
<i>Chairman of the General Pur- poses Committee</i>	....	C. CULLEN, Esq. J.P.
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	....	C. H. PROSSER

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: FROME 2625.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 198.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	98	94	192
Illegitimate	....	....	....	2	4	6
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				100	98	198
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1954	....	....	....	....	....	20·74
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					Nil
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					9·62

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	13·18
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			13·60
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 114, 66 males and 48 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach....	4	1	5
" " lung, bronchus	5	—	5
" " breast	—	3	3
" " uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Coronary disease, angina	7	3	10
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	9	10
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	15	13	28
Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	66	48	114

Deaths under One year of age

There were 3 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, all female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	2	1—4 weeks	....	Nil
1—6 months	....	1	6—12 months	....	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	1	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	16	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	2	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	33	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	12	1	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	4	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	68	4	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Six new cases of pulmonary and four case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
On register, 1.1.54	12	12	3	1	15	13
New cases, 1954	4	2	1	3	5	5
Removed from register, 1954	16	14	4	4	20	18
	6	4	2	—	8	4
On register 31.12.54	10	10	2	4	12	14

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

General

There are ten public supplies within the district which are controlled by the District Council, and from these sources the following parishes are served :—

Norton St. Philip	Nunney	Coleford
Rode	Trudoxhill	Leigh-on-Mendip
Beckington	Selwood (pt.)	Mells
Berkley (pt.)	Wanstrow	Hemmington (pt.)
Woolverton (pt.)	Buckland Dinham	

Samples have been taken frequently and these have shown that only the Nunney and Norton St. Philip sources can be regarded as satisfactory. Except for the Bilbao supply, which is chlorinated, all other waters are supplied to the consumers without treatment.

The remaining parishes in the district have relied on private supplies, most of which are piped ; but with the exception of Witham Friary these supplies have been unsatisfactory from the point of view of both quality and quantity. All private supplies have been periodically sampled for bacteriological examination.

Faulkland Extension

The work of laying new water mains together with the building of a reservoir at Terry Hill and the erection of a pump house at Tuckers Grave to supply the Faulkland district was practically completed during the year. This area will then be supplied from the well at Norton St. Philip. Many consumers in Faulkland were connected to this new pipe line during the year.

Western Regional Stage I

Satisfactory progress has been made in the laying of new water mains in the Wanstrow and Upton Noble area.

It is anticipated that water will be available for the public at Upton Noble during 1955. Up to the present time this parish has relied on well water which is totally unsatisfactory.

Western Regional Stage II

Subject to the approval of the Ministry, it is expected that the above scheme will commence in 1955. Of the villages which are being supplied under this scheme, Whatley and Chantry are in the unfortunate position of having to rely on wells which are insufficient in yield and unsatisfactory in quality.

North East Area Supply

Final details of the above scheme are being approved by the Council's Consultant Engineers, and it is hoped that work will commence during the next year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Beckington and Kilmersdon

The first post-war sewage disposal schemes have now been commenced in the parishes of Beckington and Kilmersdon. Unfortunately, in each case, only a small section of the villages are being served ; this is especially so in the case of Beckington where gross pollution of the River Frome will still continue, as the drainage from the larger part of the village will still pass into the river untreated. This nuisance will only be abated by the carrying out of the whole scheme as proposed by the Council's Consultant Engineer.

Norton St. Philip

Gross pollution of the Wellow brook still continues as a result of the drainage passing directly into it. The Council are still awaiting the preparation of a scheme from their Consulting Engineers. I am of the opinion that the Council would be ill advised to build further houses in this area until this proposed scheme has been carried out.

Rode

These disposal works continue to function fairly satisfactorily but the work of the attendant has been hampered by the large amount of surface water passing to the works. This serious defect will be remedied when the works proposed by the Council's Consultant Engineer have been carried out.

Coleford

These sewage works have continued to function satisfactorily.

Nunney

Although the tanks have been cleaned out once a month, the works as a whole are not satisfactory and new disposal works are urgently needed.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Fortnightly collection (weekly in the case of Coleford) has been carried out, as last year, by a Contractor. The scheme has worked fairly satisfactorily, but I am still of the opinion that a more satisfactory method would be for the Council to employ their own labour and to use a specially made vehicle.

The refuse is deposited at four tips situated at Faulkland, Nunney, Oldford and Coleford ; all tips are uncontrolled.

HOUSING

New Houses

During the year 16 Council houses and 16 private houses were completed. The Council have now erected 215 post war houses.

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts, all matters arising from housing defects and nuisances have been satisfactorily dealt with.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular inspections have been made and action taken where necessary.

Ice-Cream

There are no manufacturers in the district but all premises where pre-packed ice-cream is sold have been inspected periodically.

KNACKER'S YARD

The only knacker's yard in the area is situated at the Mount, Frome, and throughout the year regular inspections have been carried out.

INDUSTRIES

The main industries in the district are :—

Agriculture	Engineering
Quarries	Milk Products Factory (Messrs. Aplin & Barrett)

PEST DESTRUCTION

Survey and treatment have been operated in accordance with Ministry requirements. Regular treatments have been carried out in sewers and refuse tips and domestic premises have been treated when complaints have arisen.

